Volume 60, No. 2 SUMMER 2015

The official publication of the
FLORIDA UNITED NUMISMATISTS, INC.
Published Quarterly

FUN Topics

They're Back – the 2014 Rebirth of Marshall Islands Coinage and its History of Non-Circulating Coinage from 1986-1998

By: Steven Bieda

(on pages 19-25)

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President's Message

Randy Campbell
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Soon the 9th Annual Summer FUN Convention will be upon us. Dealer set-up is Wednesday afternoon, July 8, in the West Hall A3 of the Orange County Convention Center, 9800 International Drive, in Orlando. We're hoping it will be the biggest Summer FUN Show of all time. The show will be open to the public Thursday, July 9, through Saturday, July 11. Be sure to check the official Summer FUN program for all the details of the time and places of all the events.

As usual, Heritage Numismatic Auctions will put on a stupendous auction that is loaded with prime numismatic material. Steve Ivy, Jim Halperin, and the entire staff of Heritage deserve high praise for gracing the Summer FUN Show with yet another amazing offering. Clearly, they are the best at what they do.

The dealer bourse will have around 200-250 tables offering a wide array of numismatic items for sale. We hope you'll take advantage of the impressive material that is available. And be sure to check out the interesting exhibits on display at this convention. Exhibit chair Bob Russell does a super job running this aspect of the convention.

Tony Bonaro will have his usual YN activities scheduled for Saturday. Indeed, every one of our officers and board members have worked extra hard to make this convention a success. Be sure to say "thank you" to all of them wearing the orange jackets. And, remember, they are all VOLUNTEERS.

Speaking of orange jackets, Mr. Jay Chamberlain and Ms. Robin DiMuro will be joining the board at this convention to fill vacancies. We are fortunate to have these dedicated people working for our organization. Sadly, Ms. Jeanne Shepard, a former board member, passed away earlier this year. Both her friendly smile and her hard work will be sorely missed. She was the daughter of one of the founding fathers of FUN, Bob Hendershott.

Also, my dear friend, and the hobby's dear friend, Miss Diane Piret, recently passed away. Diane was one of the leaders of the Industry Council for Tangible Assets (ICTA). She fought tirelessly for several decades fighting unfair legislation and unfair tax laws that hurt our hobby tremendously. Partly through her amazing efforts, over half of the 50 states no longer tax coins. Her impact on our hobby was UNBELIEVABLE!! May you rest in peace, Diane.

Finally, the upcoming Summer FUN Show will have an impressive list of speakers and educational programs. These programs will take place in Room W204C on all three days of the show. They are FREE and open to the public. Soak-up all the priceless knowledge you can pick-up at these seminars!

See YOU at the big
Summer FUN Show in Orlando July 9-11!

Randy

Sincerely Cindy

Cindy Wibker

cwibker@aol.com

The hobby has lost a dedicated, selfless supporter, and I have lost a good numismatic friend. Diane Piret of ICTA passed away April 15th. Diane was one of the first people I met when I became convention coordinator of FUN. Although she had never been a convention planner and didn't know the ins and outs of my job, she was a wealth of information about most topics of numismatics, and knew all the major players. Her advice and counsel helped me tremendously over the last 20+ years. And, even if you're not aware of all she did for the hobby, I'm sure she did something that you are benefitting from as I write this. She was a master at understanding the tax laws that pertained to numismatics, and wholeheartedly worked to change them where changes needed to be made – and was usually successful. One of my fondest memories is visiting Diane and staying in her home with another dear numismatic friend and FUN treasurer, Polly Abbott. Diane had been trying to sell her home for some time, and she sold it that weekend and always considered Polly and I her good luck charms. I drove from Florida to Diane's house to pick up a cat that was not part of her Siamese cat family because Polly wanted that cat. He was a stray that had been hit by a car in front of Diane's house. She took him to the vet and they put him back together, and his name was then Robeaux – like the reassembled Robo cop, only with the proper New Orleans spelling. Diane had many passions in life – the numismatic hobby, her animals, her friends, her family, her beloved city of New Orleans and her church. It was a privilege and honor for me to attend her funeral on behalf of FUN, and I shall miss her greatly.

FUN also lost a former board member, who was my show office manager during conventions for well over a decade. Jeanne Shepard had a good long life, and we were all saddened to receive news of her passing. Jeanne was Bob Hendershott's (one of the founders of FUN) only child, and she inherited his blue eyes that had a distinct twinkle. She worked tirelessly for FUN, as well as doing volunteer work for many other organizations. I could depend on Jeanne to do anything that was asked of her in the show office during our conventions. When we needed to stuff goodie bags for the YNs, she was ready to roll up her sleeves and go to work. Jeanne was sensitive and kind and treated everyone with respect. FUN lost an ambassador and Jeanne will be missed by all of us and remembered with great fondness and respect.

FUN's "road show" has recently attended the spring Whitman Baltimore show, as well as the Central States Numismatic Society (CSNS) show. I returned home from both shows with completed applications and checks in hand for both Summer FUN 2015 and Fun 2016. I believe we also generated some new interest in the FUN shows. It's always fun to travel and see our extended numismatic family! We also do all we can to support the other shows, frequently by serving as exhibit judges or doing volunteer work. FUN board members Tony Swicer and Gary Braisted took the exhibit judging class taught by ANA chief judge Joe Boling at CSNS. I'm happy to announce they both passed on the first try, which I understand only 30-40% normally do. Congratulations to Tony and Gary! The ANA has two new certified judges.

Plans for Summer FUN are now well underway, and it promises to be another great show. I love Summer FUN because it has a different atmosphere and a more casual feel than our January show – and yet there is no compromising the quality of collectibles offered, the caliber of the dealers and dedication of the collectors searching for items they want to add to their collections. We're in Hall WA3 this year. That is in the "old" West Building, and Hall A is closest

(continued on page 8)

Sincerely Cindy

(continued from page 7)

to the Rosen Centre Hotel. FUN will run shuttle buses from the parking lot in back of the West Building to the door of the show, and those buses will also take you back to the parking lot when your day is finished. Check our website at www.funtopics.com and click on the link for SUMMER FUN for details and updates. The educational program, schedule of events and dealer listing are all being compiled and proofread at this time.

As always, FUN will have activities for the young numismatists (YNs) during the show at the Coins & Kids booth. On Saturday we offer the YN program in the morning and the Scout Merit Badge clinic in the afternoon. We all need to work together to get our children involved, as they are the future of our hobby.

Kids of all ages love to pan for gold, and our friends from the Piedmont Gold Panners will be on site to help you give it a try. I've tried my hand at it, and have new respect for what the miners did during the gold rush to make a living. There's nothing like the thrill of seeing something sparkle and glisten in your pan!

Make your plans now for Summer FUN 2015! Don't hesitate to contact me if I can help you in any way. We have plenty of hotel rooms on hold, and you definitely want to use FUN's official housing bureau. All numismatic groups have been plagued recently with aggressive telephone solicitors offering hotel rooms, and you do NOT want to do business with them! Look for information on FUN's hotels in this issue of FUN Topics. I'll see you in July in Orlando!

Sincerely,

Cindy

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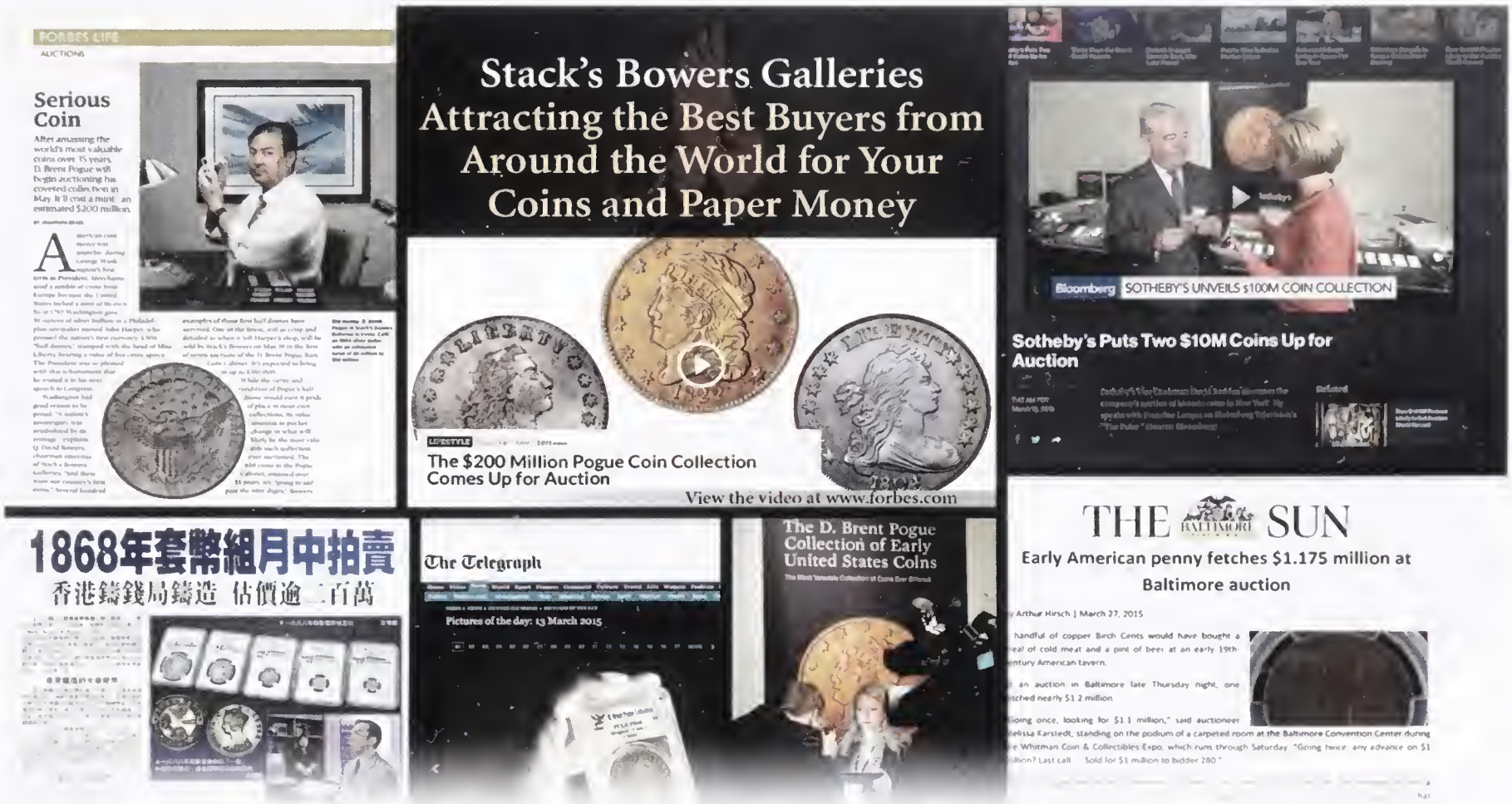

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2015 SUMMER F.U.N. EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

All speakers and topics are subject to change. These programs will be presented at the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, Room W204C. They are free and open to the public. Randy Campbell - Education Director

Thursday, July 9, 2015
1:00 PM "America's Most Unloved Dollar," by Mark Trout. Ocala Coin Club member Mark Trout is a veteran numismatic researcher and a frequent numismatic speaker. His program will detail the rise and development of the controversial Susan B. Anthony dollar, the coin he calls "America's Most Unloved Dollar!" Don't miss it!

2:30 PM "So You Want To Be A World Coin Collector?" by Bob Hurst. Current FUN Vice President Bob Hurst is a leading dealer of world coins and a frequent speaker at major conventions. Today Mr. Hurst will pass along valuable tips on the best way to get your world coin collecting experience rolling!

Friday, July 10, 2015
1:00 PM "A Numismatic Tour of Philadelphia," by Ray Herz. Jacksonville researcher Ray Herz will take those in the audience on a tour of the four U. S. Mint sites, Independence Hall, and the homes of Ben Franklin and Betsy Ross (among others) as he discusses the coin, currency and medal tie-ins in the City of Brotherly Love. It's a perfect match of history and numismatics!

2:30 PM "If A Deal Sounds Too Good To Be True, It Probably Is," by Sandy Pearl. FUN board member Sandy Pearl has had a strong interest in numismatic consumer protection for many decades. What deals REALLY ARE too good to be true? Which deals SHOULD ALWAYS be avoided? Sandy Pearl has the answers in this hard-hitting program.

Saturday, July 11, 2015
11:00 AM "My Top 10 Buffalo Nickel Varieties," by Dr. David Elliott. Dr. Elliott is a highly- respected error-variety specialist who has lectured at several FUN conventions. Today he turns his attention to the popular Buffalo Nickel series. You'll be amazed at some of the major varieties in his highly entertaining program!

12:30 PM "Currency Doctoring Detection," by Jeffrey Paunicka. Mr. Paunicka, an Indiana paper money specialist, will tell those in the audience his detection methodology for detecting doctored pieces of paper money. Don't be fooled by the 'bad guys.' This program is a MUST for those putting together a quality portfolio of U. S. paper money!

YN's Have Fun

Tony Bonaro

t.bonaro@xrail.com

Have a great Summer

Editor's note: Tony has been under the weather for a couple of weeks, so his article will be short to all the young numismatiests. Tony will be at the Summer show ready to tackle all of your numismatic queries.

We had a fabulous January show and the Summer FUN Show will be here in July. So mark your calendars now. Of course we will have our Coins and Kids booth with the spinning wheel. Each YN can spin once a day. We have upgraded prizes with many more coins to be had. The Saturday YN program (new games and more prizes) will be in the morning and the Scout program will be in the afternoon.

Do you need Service Hours for school? Volunteer to help in the Coins and Kids Booth, or to help with the Saturday programs. (High School YN's only.) You can work Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

For YN Trivia this quarter we are going to do something different. Write a short essay (one page double spaced) about your favorite subject in Numismatics. It can be about a coin, or a person, or a numismatic event. You can even write about currency. The choice is yours. Each essay will get a great prize. **The best entry will get printed in FUN TOPICS and another prize. Send your entry to t.bonaro@xorail.com by June 30, 2015.**

That's all for now, I have to go buy some really great prizes. See you at the show.

Tony

FRIENDS of F.U.N.

This is a new column about the friends of Florida United Numismatists who volunteer their time to help run the best coin show in the world. Each column will highlight the current life of one or two of our regular volunteers. Most of these volunteers have been helping put on the shows for many years. We have asked each one of them for a short biography of what they do when they are not helping with the FUN show and then what they have done over the years to help put on the FUN show. Enjoy the column and if you have any questions or input, let the editor know at funtopics@aol.com. ENJOY!

I am **Steve Martin** and I have been attending the FUN shows since 1975. I started collecting coins in 1969 while living in Wiesbaden Germany. My father was in the Air Force and we spent 7 years in the Wiesbaden area. Upon his retirement in 1973 we moved to Orlando FL. I was able to attend several FUN shows in the 70's. From 1980 to 1992 I was in the Air Force as an Intelligence Officer. My tours of duty included: Kadena AB Okinawa, Osan AB Korea, Bergstrom AFB TX and my final assignment was with the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington DC. I am still in the in the Air Force Reserves with a scheduled discharge date of Nov 2017. Since Dec 1992 I have been employed with the Florida Department of Revenue as the systems administrator for the General Tax Agency (GTA). I am responsible to ensure the computers stay on line for GTA Region 2, which encompasses Orlando, Melbourne, Daytona, Leesburg and Lakeland offices.

I returned to attending the FUN shows in 1995 and have been a regular attendee ever since. In 1996 I started volunteering at the public registration booth and continued in this capacity until 2004. In 2009 a good friend of mine (Donna Moon) called and asked if I would like to return to helping out during the FUN shows. This opportunity placed me at the FUN Message Center for Jan 2010. I love working this position, the job starts the day before opening to the public. On Wednesday I go through the crates with Donna Moon and Tony looking for all of the supplies for the Message Center and the Kids Booth. Wednesday is our setup day. Around 2:00 p.m., the dealers are permitted to setup their tables. The message center then becomes center focus of all the problems that can occur during show setup. Problems are abundant, dealers unable to find their table, no power outlets, and incorrect number of cases on tables. Facility issues also come up like sitting underneath a leaking A/C Vent and the always too cold on one side and too hot on the other side. The message center is the focal point of information on what is going on during the show. Announcements are made throughout the show directing our guest s to our training seminars. I also announce the arrival and pickup of postal packages from Brinks, UPS and FedEx. The message center operates the lost and found for the bourse floor. By the end our shows I frequently have a large collection of glasses, canes, hats; and I believe we have one of the more honest shows as many lost coins come into my possession, and yes cash, credit cards and checkbooks have also been placed in my possession for return to their owners. All property of value is recorded for our records and with reasonable proof the property is returned and our records are updated. All items that are reported lost are also recorded in hopes that when found it can be returned to the owner. At one our shows a dealer reported missing some Continental Currency. He knew it wasn't stolen but was missing and had fallen out of the currency holder. The happy ending of this story was it was found by the evening Convention Hall cleaning crew as they were sweeping the aisles. The note was given to the Message Center and was re-united with its owner. The best part of working the message center are messages I make looking for lost family members, especially when the wives come to complain about their lost husbands.

My current collecting interests are commeratives and ancients. I enjoy the artistic beauty that is engraved into coins. Coins truly are the history of the world in your hands. Holding history in your hands causes me to wonder who held this and what was that person's life like. Then you look back and realize that this piece of metal in your hand is not just hundreds or thousands of years old but is actually billions of years in the making, for all of the gold and silver that we hold was actually created in the core of a supernova before our sun even existed.

This is **Billy Walsingham** and he has been attending the FUN shows since Eddie Abbott asked him to assist with Keys and Cases. He is one of the guys behind the scenes that makes sure all the showcases are on the proper tables in good working condition. Billy is one of those quiet ones that you never hear complaining about anything. He is at the FUN conventions as a volunteer and he is there to do the job that is given to him and he does an outstanding job. Eddie Abbot can attest to how good a job Billy does. He works well with the dealers and keeps them happy with good working showcases. **The FUN organization could not function without all of the volunteer's outstanding help**. We thank all of our volunteers for their outstanding help. More in next issue of FUNTopics.

They're Back – the 2014 Rebirth of Marshall Islands Coinage and its History of Non-Circulating Coinage from 1986-1998

By: Steven Bieda

After a 15 year hiatus, new coin issues dated 2014 from the Marshall Islands made their appearance on the world numismatic stage. These new non-circulating issues follow a pattern of non-circulating coins that first burst on the numismatic scene in 1986, and continued until 1998 when the seemingly endless stream of Marshall Islands non-circulating coinage simply stopped. And this wasn't simply a couple coins – indeed, in the 41st edition of Krause's the Standard Catalog of World Coins 1901-2000, issues of the Marshall Islands dated 1986-1998 cover roughly 31 pages, with many of the issues simply described with no accompanying photograph. A complete type set of issues struck 1986-1998 consists of 478 separate types. Considering that the Marshall Islands has no circulating coinage of its own, but uses United States currency, and has a total population of only 68,480 people, the numerous emissions of this Island nation are quite impressive. Especially since its first coinage didn't make its appearance until 1986. Equally impressive is that by 1999, and until late 2014, there was no new coinage, the result of a controversy and major lawsuit about redemption.

With the recent resurrection of Marshall Islands non circulating coinage, this article will provide a brief overview of the coinage of the Marshall Islands, and the controversy over redeemability that likely lead to its disappearance in the contemporary parade of new coin issues. In order to aid the reader in referencing these issues to existing catalog schemes, this article will refer to the Krause Standard Catalog of World Coins catalog number.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands

The Marshall Islands, officially the Republic of the Marshall Islands is an island country located in the northern "Pacific Ocean" Geographically, the country is part of the larger island group of "Micronesia, spread out over 34 low-lying Coral atolls, comprising 1,156 individual islands. The islands share maritime boundaries with the "Federated States of Micronesia"

Micronesian colonists gradually settled the Marshall Islands during the 2nd millennium BC. The Spanish explorer Alonso de Salazar recorded sighting the atoll in August 1526. Other expeditions by the Spanish and English ships followed, with the islands' current name stemming from British explorer Captain John Marshall who visited the islands with Thomas Gilbert in 1788, in route from Botany Bay to Canton.

The islands were recognized as part of the Spanish East Indies in 1874, and were sold to the German Empire in 1884, becoming part of the "German New Guinea" in 1885. The "Empire of Japan" occupied the Marshall Islands in World War I. The Japanese headquarters was established at the German center of administration, Jaluit. In World War II, the islands were conquered by the United States, in the "Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign."

On January 31, 1944, the American armed forces took control of the islands from the Japanese on February 3, 1944, following intense fighting on Kwajalein and Enewetak atolls. After World War II, in 1947, the United States entered into an agreement with the United Nations Security Council to administer much of Micronesia, including the Marshall Islands, as the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

From 1946 to 1958, it served as the Pacific Proving Grounds for the United States and was the site of 67 nuclear tests on various atolls. The world's first hydrogen bomb, code named "Mike" was tested at the Enewetak atoll in the Marshall Islands on November 1, 1952.

On May 1, 1979, in recognition of the evolving political status of the Marshall Islands, the United States recognized the constitution of the Marshall Islands and the establishment of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. As The "Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands." The constitution incorporates both American and British constitutional concepts.

Politically, the Marshall Islands is a "Presidential system" free association with the United States, with the U.S. providing defense, funding grants, and access to social services. Having few natural resources, the islands' wealth is based on a service economy.

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The islands signed a Compact of Free Association with the United States in 1986. On October 1, 1986, the United States notified the United Nations that the Marshall Islands were to be recognized as a separate nation. The Trusteeship was ended under United Nations Security Council Resolution 683 of December 22, 1990. Until 1999, the islanders received $180 Million for continued American use of Kwajalein atoll, with $250 Million in compensation for nuclear testing, and $600 Million in other payments under the compact.

The majority of citizens of the Marshall Islands are of Marshallese descent, with small numbers of immigrants from the Philippines and other Pacific islands. The two official languages are Marshallese and English. Almost the entire population of the islands practices some religion, with three-quarters of the country either following the United Church of Christ Congregational in the Marshall Islands or the Assemblies of God.

Non-Circulating Coinage

The country uses the United States dollar as its currency. There is no circulating coinage of the Marshall Islands, and United States currency is widely used. Thus, entire coinage of the Marshall Islands is non-circulating commemorative coins. The items of commemoration vary widely, but generally speaking, the coinage is clearly more oriented to the American general coin buying public rather than the people of the Marshall Islands; with topics predominantly not related to the Marshall Islands topography, history, flora or fauna.

All coins issued for the Marshall Islands have a similar reverse design. The design consists of the national seal of the Marshall Islands. The motto, "Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan," means "Accomplishment through Joint Effort," and the design centers on the nation's symbol, the stylized "Angel of Peace," sometimes referred to as the "Spirit Bird of Peace," with outstretched wings. Around the Angel, from the top and moving clockwise: 24 point sun star representing the 21 municipalities of the Republic. The four longer rays represent the 4 sub-centers of Majuro (the capital), Jaluit, Wotje, and Kwajalein Atolls. On either side of the star are the rays which are on the flag. Each ray is of two colors, one, orange representing bravery, and the other, white representing peace. The two-colored rays also represent the two chains of atolls, the Ratak (Sunrise) and the Ralik (Sunset).

Next is a stylized fishing net, fish being the main staple of the diet of the Marshallese people. After which is a stylized sailing canoe, outrigger type, sails on the ocean (this design element covering the bottom 1/3 of the seal).
Under the stick chart is the word "SEAL."

An island with stylized palm trees (coconut) is next. All of the Marshall Islands are low lying atolls.

Above the right wing of the Angel is a "pounder", made out of a giant clam shell, and treasured by every family that owns one. This pounder is used to pound pandanus leaves, which are used for making mats, sails, and, traditionally, clothing. Around the outer edges are the words "Republic of the Marshall Islands" and at the bottom, "Jepilpilin ke ejukaan." The rim of the seal is a link chain representing that the islands are all linked together, half of the chain representing the Ralik group and the other half the Ratak.

According to Krause's Standard Catalog of World Coins: the first coinage of the Marshall Islands was struck in 1986, and consisted of non-circulating 30.15 mm Half Dollar (KM-1) and 38.75 mm Dollar (KM-2) coins, struck as proofs in .999 fine silver and weighing one-half ounce and one ounce respectfully. The two silver pieces where offered as a set in packaging very reminiscent to that offered by the United States for its commemorative coinage program. 10,000 of each of the silver coins were minted. Gold coins, consisting of a Twenty Dollar (KM-3), a Fifty Dollar (KM-4) and A Two Hundred Dollar coin, designated as KM-5, were struck in .999 fine gold. The coins weighed in one-tenth ounce, quarter ounce and one ounce. Krause reports mintages of 5,000 each. These first coins are probably the closest one can get to something directly related to the Marshall Islands and its history. The Half Dollar depicts a native Pandanus fruit and the Dollar a Triton Shell. Both carry the inscription "Compact of Free Association." Similarly, the first gold coins of the Marshall Islands, from smallest denomination to largest, depict the following: Sun star, a coconut and a Stick Chart respectfully. The gold coins also carry the same aforementioned inscription. In 1986, the average price of gold was $368.00, so the high Two Hundred Dollar face value of the one ounce gold coin was still substantially lower than the price of the gold medal.

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There were no Marshall Islands coins issued in 1987, but 1988 saw the beginnings of the perhaps the biggest promotion of Marshall Islands coinage. In that year, Unicover Corporation, utilizing national general circulation periodicals such as TV Guide and Parade magazine, along with direct mailing solicitations, offered a Five Dollar commemorative coin featuring "America's Return to Space" with the flight of the space shuttle Discovery. The occasion undoubtedly weighed heavily on the American psyche; the 1988 flight of the Space Shuttle Discovery marked the first flight of the Space Shuttle since the tragic explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986. The 1988 flight, designated as STS-26, ended a 32 month hiatus of the U.S. manned space program, and occurred on September 29, 1988. The flight was an occasion of both national pride and angst. These "Return to Space" coins were offered for face value, with a limit of five coins per purchaser, along with shipping and handling charge of $1.50 per coin. The long hiatus between the Challenger tragedy and the successful launch, in which the public followed almost daily revelations of the causes of the 1986 tragedy, as well as the anticipation for the impending Discovery flight, ensured not only a highly watched shuttle take off, but a very successful commemorative coin launch as well. Thus large numbers of these coins were purchased by the general public. The vast majority of who, presumably, had never heard of the Marshall Islands.

The market success of the 1988 Discovery Five Dollar commemorative, lead to another space themed commemorative, this one marketed in a similar fashion as the 1988 issue. The 1989 Five Dollar issue celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the First Man on the Moon. Americans responded to this issue just as favorably, and this issue also ended up as a very successful promotion. Today, both the 1988 Discovery $5 and the 1989 Moon Landing $5 coin are the two most typically encountered Marshall Islands coins on eBay, and generally command very minimal prices on the secondary market. A half-ounce .999 fine silver Twenty Dollar commemorative (KM-153) and a one ounce .999 fine silver Fifty Dollar commemorative (KM-14) with the same design commemorating the anniversary of the moon landing were also issued the same year. Today, the current market prices of these relatively high mintage items are closely related to their bullion value.

Space themed coins proved popular in other issues as well. In 1989, a series of 26 silver one ounce silver proof coins depicting various milestones in space history and denominated as $50 coins were marketed. These attractive coins depicted notable events in the exploration of space, including the work of Robert Goddard and the Mars Rover.

Building of the success of the 1988 and 1989 issues, subsequent issues reflected other contemporary events, such as "Operation Desert Storm," the reunification of Germany, the Centennial of Dwight Eisenhower's birth, the fiftieth anniversary of World War II and a memorial issue to Princess Diana. There are a total of 478 different coin types produced under the auspices of the Marshall Islands, representing 11 denominations. None of the coin designs were used on the same denomination for more than one year, and all of the designs were commemorative in nature. The denominations of 1, 5, 10, 20, and 50 Dollars were each issued in two different sizes and medal compositions. There was one type each of the 5 dollar denomination struck in gold, and one type of the 10 Dollar denomination struck in silver, with the vast majority of these denominations stuck in either cupronickel (5 Dollar) or brass (10 Dollar). All other denominations were stuck in either silver or gold.

All Marshall Islands coins are non-circulating issues, and since they were all produced in the United States, it is safe to say the vast majority have never been in the Marshall Islands. A complete Marshall Islands gold type set consists of 7 coins, with denominations of 1, 2 ½, 5, 20, 50, 100, and 200 Dollars. The two smallest denomination coins produced; the Half Dollar and One Dollar coins, both one year issues, consist of 1 type of each, and represent the first year of Marshall Islands coinage.

By far the most common denominations of Marshall Island coins are the 5 dollar cupronickel 38.71 mm, $10 brass 34.6 mm and $50 one ounce silver 38.71 mm. There are 83 different cupronickel 5 Dollar coins, 171 different brass 10 Dollar coins, and 206 different one ounce 50 Dollar silver coins. Sometimes individual coins were issued, although a common marketing scheme was to utilize the respective design on a $5 cupro-nickel crown, a smaller diameter brass $10 coin, and a $50 silver one ounce coin with the coins marketed as part of a three piece set.

A collector specializing in topical issues will find coins depicting, Elvis Presley, JFK, Marilyn Monroe, Columbus, James Dean, Korean War, Vietnam War, and the history of automobiles. Other emissions celebrate Christmas, whales and dolphins, and even a set of coins depicting each of the twelve apostles.

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One of the more unusual coin sets issued was in 1988, featuring the great American Olympic diver Greg Louganis. In 1988 Greg Louganis was a four time Olympic Champion and was considered the greatest diver in history. Louganis is the only male to sweep both the 3m and 10m diving events in consecutive Olympic Games (1984 and 1988). Louganis earned a total of five Olympic medals, five World Championship titles and 47 national titles (more than anyone in U.S. history).

Today, Louganis is probably best remembered for the shocking Olympic moment when he struck his head on a springboard at the 1988 games. Louganis revealed his remarkable courage and tenacity when he returned to the board shortly after and performed the best dive of the competition. The following day, he won the gold medal and secured his legacy.

The Greg Louganis coin series included a .999 silver proof coin with a $10 denomination, featuring Louganis on the diving board, with the inscription "Greg Louganis The Perfect 10" encircling the design of this half dollar sized coin weighing .3533 ounces of silver and designated as KM-147. In addition, three different $25 .925 silver coins, each featuring Louganis performing a different dive; "Back Dive," "Twister," and "Jackknife," offered for sale in both uncirculated and proof quality, and produced in .925 fine silver and weighing 1.0100 ASW. These three coins, each contain the inscription: "Greg Louganis World's Greatest Diver," and are designated as KM-20, 21 and 22 in Krause.

A large 65mm, proof .999 silver coin weighing 5.0055 ounce of silver and designated by Krause as KM-16 was also sold. It bears the face value of $75 and features a profile of Louganis, along with vignettes of himself in various dive formations. According to the 2014 edition of the Krause Catalog of World Coins, only 20 of this particular coin were minted, yet also lists an estimated mintage of 175,000, which seems quite impassible relative to its market appearance. This coin is the largest diameter Marshall Islands coin, and is the only Marshall Islands coin of this denomination.

Rounding out this emission of Louganis themed coins, a gold .583 fine gold coin in the denomination of 100 Dollars was issued in both uncirculated and proof. It features Louganis diving from a platform, and is designated by Krause as KM-17, and is the only Marshall Islands coin of this denomination.

Interestingly, and perhaps indicative of how famous he was at the time, when I contacted Greg Louganis for this article, he confessed that he had totally forgotten about the coin promotion, and discussed some of the personal challenges he was going through at the time, which he wrote about in his book; Breaking the Surface, which was on the New York Times bestseller list for five weeks in 1996. Contemporary stories in the Associated Press regarding the coinage quote the very humble gold medal winner as saying "I'm flattered because the coins are beautiful and because they're honoring me on a coin."

While most of the issues produced for the Marshall Islands reflect themes and subjects typically marketed to the United States or broader world coin market, there was one exception. In 1997 two coins, one a brass $10 coin (KM-400) and the other, a 20 Dollar silver coin, (KM-401) 30mm .999 silver proof weighing .3330 actual silver weight were struck and sold. These two coins depict the Chinese leader, Deng Xiaoping who died on February 19th of that year. Deng was a politician and reformist leader of the People's Republic of China, who, after Mao Tse-tung's death, led his nation towards a market economy. The two coins bearing his image from the Marshall Islands show a portrait of Deng, along with his name and years of birth (1904) and death. Krause doesn't list any mintages for either coin, and based upon its relative absence from the Internet auction site eBay, one can deduce that it was likely not produced in large quantities.

Production and Marketing of the Marshall Islands Coinage; 1986-1998

There is no government or private mint located in the Marshall Islands. To produce and sell the coins, the government of the Marshall Islands contracted with Unicover Corporation of Cheyanne, Wyoming. Unicover Corporation was a direct mail marketer of numismatic and philatelic items. The United States company, which was founded in 1968, is still in business. It no longer markets numismatic items, focusing entirely on philatelic issues, including those of the Marshall Islands. All of the Marshall Islands coin issues were produced by private mints in the United States under contract with Unicover Corporation. Mintmarks include "M" for Medallic Art Co, "R" for Roger Williams Mint Company and "S" for the Sunshine Mint. In late 1990, due to financial problems, Medallic Art Co. was taken over by Tri-State Mint Inc., and Unicover Corporation continued its contract with the successor corporation for a brief while. Some of the coins were designed and sculpted by designers well known to collectors of United States coins, thus coins by Marshall Jovine can be found among the myriad of issues briefly but prodigiously produced under the auspices of the Marshall Islands.

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Interestingly, when the Rogers Williams Mint went out of business a number of years ago, and it was acquired by the Osbourne Mint in Ohio. Around the time of its demise, a large number of uncancelled dies and die hubs from many of the Marshall Islands commemoratives came on the market, many of which were offered along with other dies and hubs of private medals and tokens on the popular on-line auction site eBay.

They're back; Issues of 2014

In late 2014, several new issues of the Marshall Islands started to appear on eBay. These coins have the diameter of 40mm, and are composed of silver-plated cupro-nickel and weigh approximately one ounce. The seven coins issued have the face value of one dollar (1$) and all sport the familiar Marshall Islands national seal on the reverse, and have a reeded edge. The coins are advertised as proof manufacture and were issued in a commemorative envelope and encapsulated in a capsule.

As of the time of this writing, there are two multi-coin sets; one consisting of three coins with colorized images of Pandas – two commemorating the Giant Panda, and one commemorating the Red Panda. The inscriptions, GIANT PANDA and RED PANDA appear on the upper periphery of the coins.

The other multi-coin set consists of four coins. This set depicts the early history of the USSR space program, with the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin. (March 9, 1934 – 27 March 27, 1968) was a Russian-Soviet pilot and cosmonaut. He was the first human to journey into outer space, when his Vostok spacecraft completed an orbit of the Earth on April 12, 1961.

Gagarin became an international celebrity, and was awarded many medals and titles, including Hero of the Soviet Union, the nation's highest honor. Vostok I marked his only spaceflight, but he served as backup crew to the Soyuz I mission (which ended in a fatal crash). Gagarin later became deputy training director of the Cosmonaut Training Center outside Moscow, which was later named after him. Gagarin died in 1968 when the MiG-15 training jet he was piloting crashed. The Marshall Islands Dollar depicting Gagarin shows a three-quarters portrait of the cosmonaut along with a section of Vostok spacecraft from his famous flight.

Another of the four coin set features the first woman in space, Valentina Tereskhova (born 6 March 1937) is a retired Soviet cosmonaut and engineer, and the first woman to have flown in space, having been selected from more than four hundred applicants and five finalists to pilot Vostok 6 on June 16,1963. In order to join the Cosmonaut Corps, Tereshkova was only honorarily inducted into the Soviet Air Force and thus she also became the first civilian to fly in space.

Before her recruitment as a cosmonaut, Tereshkova was a textile factory assembly worker and an amateur skydiver. After the dissolution of the first group of female cosmonauts in 1969, she became a prominent member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, holding various political offices. She remained politically active following the collapse of the USSR and is still referred as a heroine in post-Soviet Russia, indeed, at the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Soshi, Russia, she was a flag-carrier of the Olympic flag.

The Marshall Islands coin on which she is featured depicts Tereshkova in a three-quarter profile along with a depiction of Vostok 6.

One issue depicts Laika; (est.1954-November 3, 1957) was a Soviet space dog who became one of the first animals in space, and the first animal to orbit the Earth. Laika, a stray dog from the streets of Moscow, was selected to be the occupant of the Soviet spacecraft Sputnik 2 that was launched into outer space on November 3, 1957.

Little was known about the impact of spaceflight on living creatures at the time of Laika's mission, and the technology to de-orbit had not yet been developed, therefore Laika's survival was not expected. Some scientists believed humans would be unable to survive the launch or the conditions of outer space, so engineers viewed flights by animals as a necessary precursor to human missions. The experiment aimed to prove that a living passenger could survive being launched into orbit and endure weightlessness , paving the way for human spaceflight and providing scientists with some of the first data on how living organisms react to spaceflight environments.

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Laika died within hours from overheating, possibly caused by a failure of the central R-7 sustainer to separate from the payload. The true cause and time of her death were not made public until 2002; instead, it was widely reported that she died when her oxygen ran out on day six or as the Soviet government initially claimed, she was euthanized prior to oxygen depletion.

The second issue depicts Belka and Strelka. Belka (Russian for "Squirrel' or alternately, "Whitey") and Strelka (Russian for "Arrow") spent a day in space aboard Korabl-Sputnik 2 (Sputnik 5) on August 19, 1960 before safely returning to Earth.

They were accompanied by a grey rabbit, 42 mice, 2 rats, flies and several plants and fungi. All passengers survived. They were the first Earth-born creatures to go into orbit and return alive.

Strelka went on to have six puppies with a male dog named Pushok who participated in many ground-based space experiments, but never made it into space. One of the pups was named Pushinka (Russian for "Fluffy") and was presented to President John F. Kennedy's daughter Caroline by Nikita Khrushchev in 1961. A Cold War canine romance bloomed between Pushinka and a Kennedy dog named Charlie resulting in the birth of 4 pups that JFK referred to jokingly as "pupniks" Two of their pups, Butterfly and Streaker, were given away to children in the Midwest. The other two puppies, White Tips and Blackie, stayed at the Kennedy home on Squaw Island but were eventually given away to family friends. Pushinka's descendants are still living today. A photo of descendants of some of the Space Dogs is on display at the Zvezda Museum outside Moscow.

All four of the 2014 Russian Space coins have colorized images of the Soviet flag in the field. The seven coins in the two sets all share a common reverse design consisting of the national seal of the Marshall Islands.

At the time of this writing, preliminary information suggests that the 2014 coins were produced in the Russian Federation, although they seem to be marketed primarily out of Spain.

These sets were issued with announced mintages of 1000 total mintage, and appear to have been minted and primarily distributed in Europe.

As has been the tradition with past Marshall Islands issues, these coins are all non-circulating "legal tender." It remains to be seen whether these coins will be subject to the same restrictions on redemption that earlier issues had, but the lower denominations as well as the lower mintages and higher issue prices, will probably make the issue of non-redemption moot.

Are These Issues Really Legal Tender?

Are these issues really legal tender? Although they bear a face value, which distinguishes them from medals, redemption of these commemorative issues is virtually impossible. For the issues dated 1986-1998, the government of the Marshall Islands originally entered into a contract with an American corporation, Unicover Corporation of Cheyanne, Wyoming, which in turn contracted with private mints in the United States for the production of the commemorative coins for subjects that Unicover decided would be ideal for the commemorative coin marketplace. The coins were given legal tender status by the Marshall Islands government, but the coins won't be recognized for payment of any debts in the Marshall Islands. The Marshall Islands government made a mistake in allowing the face value of the coins to be significant, with relatively high mintages, while the coins were of either base metal, or contained precious metal the value of which was only a fraction of face value.

Thus, the Marshall Islands government failed to consider that someone might try to redeem the coins at some later date, which eventually happened. Some enterprising German coin dealers bought up many of the Marshall Islands coins at deeply discounted prices then traveled to the Marshall Islands to redeem them.

When the government refused to redeem them, the case ended up in court. The Marshall Islands government eventually passed laws prohibiting large quantities of these coins from being imported, while allowing a single coin to be redeemed daily, less a handling fee. Thus, the Marshall Islands may be the only country in the world which prohibited the importation of its own coinage!

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Eventually, the Marshall Islands adopted a policy for redemption of the coins. According to the Marshall Islands Journal dated June 13, 1997, to redeem Marshall Islands coinage an individual must:

- appear in person at the Treasury
- redeem no more than ten coins per day
- present an original invoice showing the purchase price of the coins
- pay a ten percent fee.

Apparently, the lawsuits over redemption and the corresponding bad taste and bad publicity regarding the coins of the Marshall Islands was enough to kill any future coin program after 1998, until the lower denomination and very low mintage issues of 2014 made their appearance on the numismatic stage.

Conclusion

With the 2014 resurrection of Marshail Islands non-circulating coinage, and despite the maddening array of issues previously issued – a complete type set of the issues of 1986-1998 consists of 478 issues. There are a number of interesting, well-designed and modestly priced coins that collectors may wish to consider. Certainly the topical collector can have a field day on issues designed to appeal to the general American public. You want a coin with Elvis? The Marshall Islands issued ten different coins over the period of three different years depicting the King. Are you an American Car aficionado? There are a number of American cars that were topics for the Marshall Islands. In addition, Space program themed, religious themed, Christmas themed, train themed, animals, along with other American personalities such as JFK, Marilyn Monroe, Babe Ruth and James Dean make up a staple of Marshall Islands issues. The Marshall Islands has a wide variety of topics on coins, mostly designed with the American general public in mind and with a scarce few exceptions, not really directly related to anything in the Marshall Islands. Today, there is a thin collector market for most if not all of this material. Thus, most of the issues are moderately priced, and although there are some very common issues (such as the 1988 Discovery and 1989 Moon Landing Anniversary) there are a number of hard to find issues that can make a complete collection of Marshall Islands coins quite challenging to acquire.

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1858 Half Eagle
PR67 Ultra Cameo NGC

1859 Half Eagle
PR66 Ultra Cameo NGC. CAC

1860 Half Eagle
PR65 Cameo NGC

1861 Half Eagle
PR66 Cameo NGC

1862 Half Eagle
PR66 Ultra Cameo NGC

1863 Half Eagle
PR65 Cameo NGC

1865 Half Eagle
PR67 Cameo NGC. CAC

1873 Half Eagle
PR65 Ultra Cameo NGC

1875 Half Eagle
PR65 Ultra Cameo NGC

1876 Half Eagle
PR66 Cameo NGC

1879 Half Eagle
PR66 Cameo NGC

1880 Half Eagle
PR66 Ultra Cameo NGC. CAC

1887 Half Eagle
PR65 Cameo NGC

1898 Half Eagle
PR67 ★ Ultra Cameo NGC. CAC

1899 Half Eagle
PR68 ★ Ultra Cameo NGC

Selections from The Duckor Family Collection of Gold Dollars to be sold in our Official auction of the ANA World's Fair of Money℠

1851 Gold Dollar
MS68 PCGS CAC
Ex: David Akers Collection
Tied for the Finest PCGS Graded

1854 Type Two Gold Dollar
MS66 PCGS CAC
Tied for the Finest CAC Approved

1854-S Gold Dollar
MS65+ PCGS CAC
Ex: John Pittman Collection
The Finest Certified

1855 Type Two Gold Dollar
MS66 PCGS CAC
Only One Finer at CAC

1855-D Gold Dollar
MS64 PCGS
Finest Known
Remarkable Full Date Example

1856-S Type Two Gold Dollar, MS64 PCGS CAC
The Finest Doubled Mintmark, FS-501
Ex: David Akers Collection

1857 Gold Dollar
MS68 PCGS CAC
The Finest Certified Example

1860-S Gold Dollar
MS65 PCGS
The Only Certified Gem

1863 Gold Dollar
MS68 PCGS CAC
Ex: Virgil Brand and David Akers
Finest at PCGS by Two Points

1864 Gold Dollar
MS68 PCGS CAC
Ex: Virgil Brand and David Akers
Tied for the Finest CAC Approved

1868 Gold Dollar
MS68 PCGS CAC
Tied for the Finest Certified
The Finest CAC Submission

1869 Gold Dollar
MS68 PCGS CAC
Tied for the Finest Certified

1873 Open 3 Gold Dollar
MS68 PCGS CAC
Ex: David Akers Collection
The Only MS68 Graded

1875 Gold Dollar
MS66 PCGS CAC
Ex: David Akers; Harry W. Bass, Jr.
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Large Currency	7 7/8 X 3 1/2	28.60	50.00	233.00	454.00
Auction	9 X 3 3/4	28.60	50.00	233.00	454.00
Foreign Currency	8 X 5	35.00	62.50	280.00	477.00
Checks	9 5/8 X 4 1/4	35.00	62.50	280.00	477.00

SHEET HOLDERS

SIZE	INCHES	10	50	100	250
Obsolete Sheet-End Open	8 3/4 X 14 1/2	$23.00	$101.00	$177.00	$412.00
National Sheet-Side Open**	8 1/2 X 17 1/2	24.00	108.00	190.00	421.00
Stock Certificates-End Open	9 1/2 X 12 1/2	21.50	95.00	165.00	390.00
Map and Bond Size-End Open	18 X 24	91.00	405.00	738.00	1698.00
Photo Size	5 1/4 X 7 1/4	12.00	46.00	80.00	186.00

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Attention Numismatic Ambassadors

The Florida United Numismatists has now taken over from Numismatic News the sponsorship of the Numismatic Ambassador Award.

Please send Tony Swicer your mailing address and email address so he can update the Ambassador records. His address is below.

Tony Swicer
FUN Administrator-Numismatic Ambassador Award
P.O. Box 5823
Lake Worth, FL 33466

Email: swicer@comcast.net

Telephone: 561-964-7236

The next Ambassador Breakfast will be held at 8 a.m. Jan. 8, 2016, at the FUN show in Tampa. Please help FUN keep you on the guest list.

GJCC Vice President Passes Away

The membership of the Greater Jacksonville Coin Club of Jacksonville, Florida mourns the loss of its club Vice President Richard T. Buchs, Sr. He was 65 when he passed after a courageous battle with a serious illness. Mr. Buchs is survived by his wife of 44 years, Nancy; son Richard Jr.; daughters, Jennifer and Theresa; grandson, Reed; and sister Carolyn. He is also survived by many other relatives, close friends, and coin club members. Mr. Buchs had been a member of GJCC for 10 years, serving most of those years as an officer, or Board member. His contributions included YN education and numismatic exhibition. His collecting interests included VAMs, Ike dollars, and John F. Kennedy half dollars. He was also a member of The Ancient City Coin Club, ANA, and FUN. He had a recently published article in FUN Topics. At a memorial service held on February 10, 2014, GJCC President Tom Bobbitt summarized Mr. Buchs' contributions to his club: "GJCC is a better club because of Richard Buchs."

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INSIDE THE GRADING ROOM!!!

by Randy Campbell, NLG
ICG Senior Grader

Many of you know that I've been a full-time professional coin grader since 1989. Beginning in late 2008, I have held the position of senior grader at ICG grading service in Tampa, Florida. During those 27 years as a professional I have witnessed some truly surprising and amazing things inside the grading room at a major grading service. What follows is my description of some of those events and coins.

Not too long ago a collector called our headquarters and asked if he could bring his recently acquired COMPLETE BU COLLECTION OF SEATED DOLLARS to our offices for possible slabbing. One of our secretaries made him an appointment and, on the next day, he was sitting across from me in our reception room. "I've even got an example of the unknown 1873-S," said this very happy novice collector. He wouldn't remain happy much longer! I carefully explained to him that his complete collection was made up of low quality, underweight, Chinese-style, counterfeit Seated Dollars. After first expressing skepticism regarding my opinion, he finally admitted he had purchased these "BU Seated Dollars" for their silver weight (about $20 each at the time). The purchase had taken place in a poor section of St. Petersburg, according to the buyer. LESSON TO BE LEARNED: If a deal seems too good to be true, it probably IS too good to be true!

Recently, at a major coin convention, a silver dollar collector purchased an early Draped Bust dollar and brought it up to the ICG table at the show for a free verbal opinion. (This is a service ICG provides at over 30 coin shows per year.) Neither the collector nor I could match this dollar perfectly with a known variety for the date. "Maybe it's a clever counterfeit," said the collector. I responded, "It absolutely appears to be genuine. Maybe it's an unknown variety." The customer submitted the coin to ICG for both grading and variety attribution. Eventually, with the help of ICG attibution expert Skip Fazzari and early dollar expert Mark Borckardt, this coin was confirmed as the discovery piece of a new variety! LESSON TO BE LEARNED: Keep digging. There are STILL an unknown number of new varieties waiting to be discovered by eager collectors!

Finally, an old-time collector, now retired in Florida, submitted a few dozen Morgan Dollars through the mail to be encapsulated. He included a note saying "I bought these as Deep Mirror Prooflikes. I hope they really are Deep Mirrors." Unfortunately, the news was not good for this old-timer. The dollars he believed to be deeply mirrored had, in reality, been altered to a high sheen by a process known as "WHIZZING." This process usually involves a wire brushing device attached to a drill. The power brushing actually "brightens" the coin with a grossly artificial appearance that some mistake as Prooflike or Deep Mirror Prooflike.

I first encountered whizzing at a coin show in the late 1950's. But I can tell you the process has been around for a lot longer than that! LESSON TO BE LEARNED: Those NOT familiar with what true Deep Mirror Prooflike dollars look like should consider buying some examples already slabbed as DMPL by one or more of the four major grading services. The money you will save could be substantial! Purchasing a copy of Wayne Miller's MORGAN AND PEACE DOLLAR TEXTBOOK would also be a smart move for the novice collector.

See you next time for more stories from "Inside the Grading Room."

Driving Directions to the Summer FUN Show In the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC)

Please note the Summer FUN show is in the West Building, Hall A3. The west building is the "older" building of the OCCC, on the same side of International Drive as this past January convention. Facing the front of the building, Hall WA3 is at the far left of the West Building, closest to the Rosen Centre Hotel.

From the Orlando International Airport (EAST) 25 minutes
1. Go west on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
2. Go north (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
3. The West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at Convention Way (south entrance), Exhibit Way (north entrance) or following Westwood Boulevard/West Entrance Drive (west entrance).

From Daytona Beach, Downtown Orlando or Executive Airport (NORTHEAST)
1. Take Interstate 4 west to the SR 528 exit (Exit 72)
2. Travel east on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
3. North (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
4. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

From Gainesville, Florida (NORTHWEST) 2 hours
1. Take Interstate 75 south to Florida's Turnpike
2. Go south on Florida's Turnpike to Interstate 4 west
3. Go west on Interstate 4 to the SR 528 exit (Exit 72)
4. Go east on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
5. Go north (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
6. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

From Tampa, Florida (SOUTHWEST) 1 Hour 15 Minutes
1. Take Interstate 4 east to the SR 528 exit (Exit 72)
2. East on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
3. North (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
4. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

From Miami, Florida (SOUTHEAST) 3 – 4 hours. Via Interstate 95
1. Take Interstate 95 north to SR 528
2. Go west on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
3. Go north (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
4. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

Via Florida's Turnpike
1. Take Turnpike north to Interstate 4 west
2. Go west on Interstate 4 to the SR 528 exit (Exit 72)
3. Go east on SR 528 to exit 1 (International Drive)
4. Go north (right) approximately one mile to Convention Center
5. From International Drive, the West Building parking lot can be accessed by turning left at either Convention Way (south entrance) or Exhibit Way (north entrance). From Westwood Boulevard, the west entrance is accessible via West Entrance Drive.

For further assistance, please call (407) 685-1061.

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Numismatic Ambassador Award

The Numismatic Ambassador Award started in 1974 by Cliff Mishler at Krause Publications. This is an award at the grass roots level where numismatists might not otherwise be recognized by the numismatic community. Since its beginnings, over 370 numismatists have received this prestigious award. Every year, nominations are accepted and voted on by the ambassadors. Usually five nominees receive the award at the ANA National Convention Numismatic Ambassador Breakfast. Dave Harper, the editor of Numismatic News has been the master of ceremonies.

At the 2014 ceremonies, it was announced that this would be the last ambassador awards.

After speaking with many ambassadors and numismatic organizations, it was decided that Florida United Numismatists would sponsor the award beginning at the January 2016 FUN Show in Tampa Florida. Nothing has changed, both Dave Harper and Cliff Mishler will be running the ceremonies at the breakfast.

Tony Swicer is the FUN administrator of the Numismatic Ambassador award. If you have received the numismatic ambassador award and have not been contacted in the past two years, please contact Tony so that he has your updated information.

Tony Swicer
P. O. Box 5823
Lake Worth, FL 33466
swicer@comcast.net
561-964-7236

Club Notes

Tony Swicer

Don't forget that the FUN Bus trip applications are due in by June 1st, 2015. Clubs may combine a bus with other clubs. There is a minimum of 20 members on a bus in order to get reimbursed by FUN for up to 40 riders. The Summer FUN Coin Club Get Together will be Friday July 10th at noon. Please RSVP me if you are coming. Two members per club can attend. We will have a luncheon, door prizes, and club discussion. swicer@comcast.net ALL FUN member clubs are welcome to attend.

Ancient City Coin Club- currently has 45 members. Rick Bretz wrote an article on the Binion Hoard.

Brandon Coin Club- had Allen F. and Dick F. gave a Civil War presentation at Bell Shoals Academy for 5th graders. The clubs next show is June 20 at the Brandon Elks Lodge, 800 Centennial Lodge Dr., Brandon, 33510

Casselberry Coin Club- had Cindy Wibker give a program on "Introduction to Coins of the Bible". They had a show n tell, raffle, refreshments, and the auction.

Central Florida Coin Club- had their club elections in March. Their spring coin show was March 27-29th. Elections were as follows; President- Don Mix, New Board members, Jay Dixon, Bill Hancock, Jan Mix, and Dan Aidif. All take office in May.

Clearwater Coin Club- welcomed 10 new members so far this year. Attendance at the meetings has averaged 48 members.

Ft. Lauderdale Coin Club- had a recap of the Seated Liberty Series by Gregg Wagner.

Ft. Myers Coin Club- had "A Salute to our Veterans" theme at their coin show with military numismatic exhibits. They gave out WWII nickels and 1943 steel cents to the first 200 visitors. There were 30 dealers at the show.

Ft. Walton Beach Coin Club- had 51 at their last meeting. They had new name tags and green lanyards for club meetings. Dave Parenteau gave a program on "Movie Prop Paper Money & Coins".

Gold Coast Coin Club- had a ANA DVD on "Counterfeits, Part 4".

Greater Jacksonville Coin Club- had a "Mini-Coin show" at their meeting. YN's were given $5 gift certificates to buy items at the show.

North Lake Coin & Currency Club- met with a raffle, 50/50 drawing, social time, and the auction.

Ocala Coin Club- had a Collect-o-Rama trading & selling session. Mark Trout discussed National Coin Week.

Palm Beach Coin Club- had Robert Feiler give a power point presentation on "Obsolete Currency and Script"

Sarasota Coin Club- had 53 at their last meeting. They had a dinner meeting at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse.

Tampa Bay Coin Club- had 35 at their last meeting including 5 new members. Ray Herz gave a power point presentation on "A Survey of Art Medals". Their show was Saturday April 18th at Zendah Grotto, 4450 W. Ohio Ave, Tampa.

Treasure Coast Coin Club- had their annual awards banquet at River House in Vero Beach. The program was on "The 1715 Spanish Treasure Fleet".

Venice Coin Club- had 30 members at their last meeting. Jeff Scalici discussed what was hot & what was not, followed by the auction.

West Hernando Coin Club- had their coin show February 21st with about 190 attending. There were 28 tables. 58 members plus 6 new members attended their last meeting. The program was on "State Tax Tokens". They had a raffle, door prizes, refreshments, and the auction.

swicer@comcast.net • 561-964-7236
I am now retired from the coin shop. • Call me anytime between 9AM and 11PM E.S.T.

Tony

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

FLORIDA UNITED NUMISMATISTS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2016

In accordance with the By-Laws (Article VI, Section 1) of Florida United Numismatists, Inc., President Randy Campbell has called for nominations to fill six (6) positions on the Board of Directors.

Any individual member of FUN for at least one year and in good standing who is a legal resident of the state of Florida is eligible for the position of officer or board of directors.

Nominations may be either: (1) A letter of nomination signed by five (5) individual members in good standing, or (2) a letter of nomination from a FUN member club in good standing signed/attested by two (2) officers of the club.

Nominations must be received by the secretary, not later than August 1, 2015. A letter of notification of nomination will be sent to each nominee requesting their acceptance/refusal of the nomination by August 31, 2015. Nominees must return their acceptance/refusal to the secretary within 30 days of the date of the notice.

All positions standing for election are for a two (2) year term, beginning in January, 2016.

The following board members are currently serving the first of a two-year term, and are therefore **not standing for re-election** as board members: Ed Abbott, Jim Best, Nancy Casey, Bernie Ososky, Jay Chamberlain and Cindy Wibker.

Nominees should be considered on the basis of their willingness to serve FUN, its members and clubs. Also, if elected, board members are expected to attend four to six meetings annually in various locations throughout the state, and to be active in the promotion of numismatics as a representative of FUN.

The following board members' terms expire in January, 2016: Tony Bonaro, Gary Braisted, Robin DiMuro, Fred Lake, Sandy Pearl, Bob Russell.

A sample nominating form is printed below for your convenience.

FLORIDA UNITED NUMISMATISTS, INC. NOMINATING FORM, 2015

We, hereby nominate the following person(s) for the office of Board of Director. Do not nominate more than six (6) persons.

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____

SIGNED: (Must be signed by five (5) FUN members.) (Please print your name and then your signature on lines below)

1. _____ Signature_____ Fun No. _____

2. _____ Signature_____ Fun No. _____

3. _____ Signature_____ Fun No. _____

4. _____ Signature_____ Fun No. _____

5. _____ Signature_____ Fun No. _____

The _____ Club nominated the above-named person(s) for the Florida United Numismatists, Inc., Board of Directors. We, the undersigned, hereby declare/attest that the majority of the general membership of the named CLUB know of and approve of this nomination. (Two club officers must sign.)

_____ _____

Name/Position Name/Position

MAIL TO:
F.U.N., *Attn:* **Donna Moon**
PO Box 780401
Orlando, FL 32878-0401
E-mail: FUN_dmoon@yahoo.com

Hobby loses one of its finest

Industry Council for Tangible Assets

P.O. Box 3253
Annapolis, Maryland 21403
410.626.7005
icta@ictaonline.org
ictaonline.org

It is with our deepest sorrow that we inform you of the death of Diane A. Piret, Industry Affairs Director for the Industry Council for Tangible Assets (ICTA) on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, after a nearly five-year battle against colon cancer.

Diane was not only a colleague and leader in the rare-coin and precious-metals industry, she also formed decades-long friendships with many. Her ability to zero in on the core of an issue or problem and her unerring ability to develop workable, fair solutions were among her formidable talents. For many years, coin dealers knew they could go to Diane with a problem or question and be assured that she would either find the solution or answer or put them in touch with someone who could. Diane was both respected and loved on the bourse floor. Since 1989, she truly was "the face of ICTA."

Born in Staten Island on May 29, 1947, Diane spent the early part of her life in New York City and graduated from Hunter College with a business degree. She learned the rare-coin and precious-metals business working at Manfra, Tordella & Brookes (formerly MTB Bank) from the mid-1970s through the mid-1980s. She managed MTB's retail store at 1 World Trade Center for several years, including during the historic metals markets of 1979 and 1980. Once initiated into this industry, she never looked back. Diane often proudly stated that she had been a coin dealer for 50 years. She was passionate about her profession and about ICTA, an organization she served for over 25 years.

Diane was hired in the fall of 1989 to be ICTA's Membership Director, whose sole responsibility was recruiting members. When she retired in 2015, she was the acknowledged industry expert on cash reporting, broker reporting, the USA PATRIOT Act, and so much more. She especially enjoyed teaching cash reporting, and she created an annual seminar by outside experts to keep coin dealers current on these regulations. She was proud of the fact that she and her ICTA colleagues never backed down from a challenge or threat to the industry, and enjoyed telling the story of initiating a meeting with U.S. Treasury officials when the PATRIOT Act was still in draft form after 9/11. She met with and formed relationships with officials there that resulted in much more reasonable cash-reporting laws for the industry.

In the mid-1980s Diane and her then-husband were recruited by Jim Blanchard to manage a precious-metals business in southeast Louisiana. Just as Diane had found a professional home in the rare-coin and precious-metals industry, she found a personal home in New Orleans. She often noted that she truly was a Southern belle who, through a strange cosmic mix-up, had been born north of the Mason-Dixon Line. Diane embraced all things New Orleans: the people, the food, the horticulture, the lifestyle, and especially—Mardi Gras. For several years, she rode horseback for her Krewe of Napoleon and hosted friends and family for the annual festivities, providing many with indelible, magical memories of Mardi Gras in the Big Easy.

A long-time member of Christ Church Cathedral, Diane loved her church and was responsible for building its annual rummage sale into a major fundraiser. It was so successful that her church was able to provide donations to smaller, needier churches in the New Orleans area. Diane loved her neighbors in her community of Belle Terre in Plaquemines Parish, and she invented the "stay-cation" in the tropical oasis she created in her back yard and gardens.

Diane received numerous awards throughout her career, including, most recently, the Professional Numismatists Guild's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Numismatic Association's 2014 Elvira Clain-Stefanelli Memorial Award for Achievement in Numismatics, and the National Silver Dollar Round Table's 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Diane's immediate survivors include brother Keith Gould, sister-in-law Lisa Mazur, sister Ellen Kennedy, two nieces, and a host of friends and neighbors. Diane also leaves her beloved Siamese cats, Sport and Angel, the last in a long line of cherished pets.

Written condolences may be mailed to the family at P.O. Box 316, Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037.

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The Industry Council for Tangible Assets is supported solely by membership dues and donations. To join and/or learn more about ICTA, please visit their website — ictaonline.org.

NATIONAL SILVER DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE™

www.NationalSilverDollarRoundtable.org • Founded November 12, 1982

THE SILVER DOLLAR SPECIALISTS. We are proud to list the following: Silver Dollar dealers as members in good standing with the National Silver Dollar Roundtable.™ Each has a reputation throughout the numismatic industry for honesty, integrity and knowledge of silver dollars.

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The National Silver Dollar Roundtable, a non-profit educational organization, invites and welcomes to membership all worthy persons eighteen years of age and older.

The National Silver Dollar Roundtable is dedicated to promoting United States silver dollars. The objective of the organization is to advance the knowledge of numismatics, especially for U.S. silver dollars, along educational, historical and scientific lines. NSDR assists in bringing about cooperation among all persons interested in collecting, buying, selling, grading, exhibiting and preserving U.S. silver dollars, through educational forums, social meetings, written articles, newsletters and other publications of interest. Our educational programs have, through the years, featured the most respected names in numismatics.

The National Silver Dollar Roundtable publishes a Journal annually for all regular, and associate members. Copies may be obtained by either joining the NSDR or by placing a subscription c/o the NSDR secretary, **Marlene M. Highfill.**

Silver dollars are the most popular coin collected today. There are many dates, types, VAMs and other varieties to collect & enjoy. Collectors often need numismatic help when trying to accumulate a collection and/or portfolio. Collecting Silver Dollars may be very complicated and you may need to consult a dealer. There are thousands of coin dealers in the U.S. When you see a regular doctor, he may need to send you to see a "specialist." The same goes for Silver Dollars. That is where the National Silver Dollar Roundtable (NSDR) comes in. When it comes to Silver Dollars, you really do need a "specialist". The following dealers have been very carefully selected and approved by the NSDR Board of Governors. The National Silver Dollar Roundtable has recently celebrated its 28th Anniversary. Below is a complete list of current NSDR members. We are proud of our members and recommend them all to you. Remember, when it comes to collecting Silver Dollars, don't just call any coin dealer, consult a **"NSDR SILVER DOLLAR SPECIALIST!"**

OFFICERS: Jeff G. Oxman - President Selby Ungar - Vice President Marlene M. Highfill - Secretary Donald H. Ketterling - Treasurer

NSDR Board of Governors: Gary Adkins John Gulde John W. Highfill David Lisot Don Rinkor Alan Rowe Douglas Sharpe Jeff Wueller

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Abbott, Michael *LM-153
Michael Abbott Numis.
Abel, Tony *LM-126
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Eagle Hill Coins
Adkins, Tony *LM-56
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Avena, Robert *LM-82
Avena Coin Company
Barna, Alex J. *LM-41
Numismatics of Distinction, Ltd.
Bascou, Eugene *LM-48
Collectors Palace
Bobb, Shaun M. *LM-133
Mike's Coin Chest
Brackins, Clif *LM-80
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2014 Diane Piret, Belle Chase, LA

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NSDR Treasurer: Don Ketterling
3835 R East Thousand Oaks Blvd., Ste. #136, Westlake Village, CA 91362
805-418-7455 Office/Fax • 818-632-2353 Mobile

NSDR Secretary: Marlene M. Highfill
P. O. Box 25, Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0025
918-254-8931 • 918-249-1792 Fax

Whitman Coin Expo
Baltimore, MD
March 25-29th, 2015

The Baltimore Show is the 3rd largest coin show in the country behind FUN and the ANA. There were 406 tables at the downtown convention center. Whitman holds the show 3 times a year. The temperature was in the 40's when we arrived. It got up to 73 degrees on Thursday, but that didn't last long and it was 22 degrees Sunday morning.

FUN had a table at this show for the first time in 7 years. Cindy Wibker went up and down every aisle handing out bourse applications for Summer FUN and the January FUN show. I purchased exhibit prizes for the January FUN shows, 2016 & 2017. (42 in all) Cindy Wibker, Bob Hurst and I manned the table giving out FUN medals, lanyards, FUN Topics, etc.

The show was well attended. All the grading services were there and StacksBowers had the auction. The US Mint & BEP were there. The show had a Kid's Corner, small exhibit section, and Scout Merit Badge program. Several specialty clubs met and there were 2 educational programs.

Prices were high at the concession stand. A bottle of water or soda was $3.50. A Crab cake sandwich was $13.(As good as I have ever had) The Inner Harbor had many different restaurants, all were expensive. Our hotel was across the street from the convention center and Camden Yards Baseball stadium.

It was a productive trip for FUN with no problems. The weather was a little on the cold side.

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Member Clubs

Tony Swicer

American Israel Numismatic Assoc. #19615
Donna Simms, Treasurer, PO Box 20255, Fountain Hills, AZ 85269. Dancinaz-donna@gmail.com

Ancient City Coin Club #3893
PO Box 814, St Augustine, FL 32085-0814 Denny's Restaurant SR16 & I-95.St. Augustine, FL. accc.anaclubs.org/index.html
7:00 PM, 3rd Monday

Barber Coin Collectors' Society #19608
% David Earp, PO Box 1723, Decatur, IL 62525.
www.BarberCoins.org

Blue Ridge Numismatic Association LM - 686
Contact: BRNA, P O Box 56156, Virginia Beach, VA 23456 (www.brna.org)
Bourse: Blenda Brush PH: 864-617-3378
JBrush2@gmail.com
Annual meeting in August at Dalton GA

Brandon Coin Club, Inc #20799
Contact: Paul Giordano, Pres. PH: 813-719-5192. Brandon Elk's Club, 800 Centennial Lodge Dr., Brandon.
7:00 PM - 3rd Tuesday
brandoncoinclub@yahoo.com

Bust Half Nut Club #14074
Contact: Stephen Herman, 2817 S. Jay St., Denver, CO 80227-3801.
ANA annual and regional meetings

Casselberry Coin Club #24722
259 Live Oaks Blvd. Casselberry, FL 32707-3829.
Meets 1st Tuesday 7:00PM at 806 Mark David Blvd, Casselberry

Central Florida Coin Club LM - 568
Contact: PO Box 568061, Orlando, FL 32856. Senior Citizen's Center ,Corner of Marks St & Magnolia Ave
7:15 PM - 2nd & 4th Wednesday

Central States Numismatic Society LM - 827
PO Box 841, Logansport,IN 46947
Email drpcoins@frontiernet.net

Clearwater Coin Club LM - 395
PO Box 4032, Clearwater, FL 33758. American Legion Post #7, 1760 Turner St., Clearwater FL. Doors open at 6pm.
7:00 PM - 2nd & 4th Tuesday
http://www.clearwatercoinclub.50megs.com

Coin Club of Pasco County #13860
PO Box 1012, Port Richey, FL 34668. Meetings: 2nd Thurs 7PM. Regency Park Civic Association, 10240 Regency Park Blvd., Port Richey, FL 34668
Http://pascocoinclub.50megs.com

Colonial Coin Collectors Club #24673
Jim Rosen, President. 9 Seminole Way, Bloomfield, CT.06002.
www.colonialcoins.org.
Annual meetings and Regional meeting.

CONECA-Combined Organization of Numismatic Error Collectors of America #16025
Mark Lighterman, 5224 West SR 46 #408, Sanford, FL 32771.
email: mlighter@bellsouth.net
www.conecaonline.org

Cuban Numismatic Association #19059
Contact: President: Emilio M. Ortiz, emo.cna.bod@gmail.com
www.cubannumis.com

Currency Club of Long Island #19551
PO Box 1270, Massapequa, NY 11758
Contact: John Musarra, PH: 516-314-0802

Early American Coppers LM - 587
EAC, PO Box 2462 Heath OH 43056.
Web site: eacs.org.
Annual conventions, regional meetings

Florida Casino Chips & Gaming Tokens Collectors Club #19503
c/o Mark Lighterman 5224 West SR 46 #40, Sanford, FL 32771

FloridaToken Society LM - 560
Contact: Pat Hynds, Sec/Treas, 4746 South Atlantic #2, Ponce Inlet, FL 32127-7182
WebSite: http:www.steveratliff.com./fts/
Email: Steve@Ratliff.com
Meets 4 times yearly

Fly-In Club - Flying Eagle & Indian Cents LM-1026
c/o Chris Pilliod, PO Box 954. Reading, PA. 19603
www.fly-inclub.org

Fort Lauderdale Coin Club LM - 726
PO Box 15604, Plantation, FL 33318 - Volunteer Park Community Ctr., 12050 W. Sunrise Blvd., Plantation, FL.
7:15 PM - 2nd & 4th Thursday
www.ftlauderdalecoinclub.com

Fort Myers/Cape Coral Coin Club #4361
Contact: PO Box 152953, Cape Coral, FL 33915-2953; contact person: Gary Lewis 239-699-7719, meeting place: 3601 Riverside Drive. Ft. Myers, FL 33901
7:00 PM - 3rd Thursday
email: *gelewis@aol.com*

Fort Walton Beach Coin Club #5696
Meeting Place: Joe & Eddies Restaurant, 400 N. Elgin Pkwy,
6:30 PM - 2ndT hursday
email: fwbcoinclub@gmail.com
www.fortwaltonbeachcoinclub.com

Georgia Numismatic Association LM -752
Secretary - Ron Wichman at:
rlwichman@bellsouth.net 707-394-4103
PO Box 76161, Atlanta, GA 30358-1161
website: www.gamoney.org

Gold Coast Coin Club #19549
%Bill Sanders 20415 NE 10th Ct. N. Miami, FL 33179
www.billscoins@att.net

Greater Daytona Beach Coin Club #2850
PO Box 214005, South Daytona , FL 32121-4005 PH: 386-305-3536 - United Presbyterian Church, 730 Beville Rd. Daytona Beach, FL
bobcoin@earthlink.net
7:00 PM - 2nd Tuesday

GreaterJacksonvilleCoinClub LM - 861
PO Box 48322, Jacksonville, FL 32247
PH: 904-733-8040 - NE Florida Safety Council, 1725 Art Museum Dr. Jacksonville, FL 32207
htttp://gjcc.anaclubs.org/
7:00 PM - 2nd Monday

ICTA #12491
Contact:Kathy J. McFadden, PO Box 3253 Annapolis, MD 212403
PH: 410-626-7005 - FAX:410-626-7007
Summer @ ANA -- Winter @ FUN

International Association of Silver Art Collectors #12280
Contact: Carrie Best, Sec/Treas, PO Box 5202, Lakeland, FL 33807-0034.
Annual meeting

International Bank Note Society #21896
Contact: David Frank, DDS, PO BOx 7894, Chesterfield, MO 63006-7894.
Email: us-secretary@ibns.biz

(continued on next page)

Member Clubs

Tony Swicer

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John Reich Colletors Soc. #24704
Contact: David Perkins, Treasurer
8012 S Albion St.
Centennial, CO 80122-3900
Annual Meeting: August ANA
Regional Mtg: FUN, EAC, Nov. Baltimore

LC Swain Coin Cub #25226
5332 Lake Worth Rd. Greenacres, FL 33463. Contact: Daniel k. Pecoraro at Daniel.Pecoraro@Palmbeachschools.org

Liberty Seated Collectors Club #23528
Craig Eberhart, Sec/Tres
PO Box 712
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Lincoln Cent Resource #25225
c/o Peter Lucik
PO Box 121
Rutherford, NJ 07070
website: www.linconcentresource.net

Love Token Society #12856
Contact: Sid Gale, P O Box 2351 Denham Springs, LA 70727 - PH: 225-664-0718
www.lovetokensociety.com
email: sidgale@cox.net
Annual meeting ANA - local meeting FUN

Low Country Coin Club #26153
PO Box 62248, N. Charleston, SC 29445
email: Lmangie@aol.com

Lower Cape Fear Coin Club #25857
PO Box 4744
Wilmington NC 28406

Madison County Coin Club #25233
Thomas W. Davison, MCCC, PO Box 2103, Madison, AL 35758.
Sr. Senior Center, 2200 Drave Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35640. 4th Tuesday each Month except May and Dec. *website: http:/mccc.anaclubs.org*

Manatee Coin Club LM-801
Contact: Fred Vandergriff, 673 Cortez Plaza, Bradenton, FL 34207. 941-756-0186. Meeting place: Christian Reformed Church, 4208 26th St. W. Bradenton
7PM - 3rd Tuesday.

Maryland State Numismatic Assoc. LM - 899
PO Box 13504 Silver Spring, MD 20911-3504.
Annual Meeting: Whitman Expo-Baltimore
website: *www.mdstatenumisassn.org.*

Metropolitan Coin Club of Atlanta LM-976
PO Box 76090, Atlanta, GA 30358-1090
770-394-4103 - Ronald Wichman, Treas
email: rlwichman@bellsouth.net
website: www.mccatl.org

Missouri Numismatic Society #21821
PO Box 410652, St. Louis, Mo 63141-0652.
Creve Coeur American Legion, 934 E. Rue de la Banque. St. Louis, Mo.
4th Wednesday, except November.
info@missourinumismaticsociety.org.

National Silver Dollar Roundtable #8573
PO Box 25, Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0025.
John Highfill PH: 918-254-8931
email: oklahomacoin@cox.net

North Lake Coin and Currency Club #21483
c/o Don Pitcher, 352-245-5680.
Wildwood Community Center, 6500 Powell Rd (CR139), Wildwood, FL 34785email: northlkccc@centurylink.net
6PM - 9PM- 2nd Wednesday Monthly

The Greater Ocala Coin Club #2948
Contact: Rich Selvar, PO Box 3091, Ocala, FL 34478-3091 - PH: 352-748-5225. Motel 6 exit 354 on I-75 and hwy 27.
6:30PM - 4th Tuesday

Original Hobo Nickel Society, Inc #13367
Contact: Becky Jirka, Secretary, 5111 Illinois Avenue, Lisle, IL 60532-2015
email: beckyjiohns@yahoo.com
Annual meeting FUN

Palm Beach Coin Club LM - 875
Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823, Lake Worth, FL 33466 - PH: 561-964-8180 (M-F 9-5) American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacares, F 33463.
7:00 PM - 2nd & 4th Wednesday
email: swicer@comcast.net

Pensacola Numismatic Society, Inc #14539
Contact: http://www.pensacolanumismatic-society.20m.com Sonny's Restaraunt on Navy Blvd.. Pensacola
6:30 PM-3rd Thursday
email: pensacolacoin@att.net

Pennsylvania Association of Numismatics (PAN) #25317
1985 Lincoln Way Suite 23 #225
White Oak, Pa 15131

Red Rose Coin Club #21891
PO Box 7212
Lancaster, PA 17604-7212
Phone: 717-872-4425

Ridge Coin Club of Sebring #600
Box 1584 Tanglewood, Sebring, FL 33872
Contact: VP-Barry Radawiec,
863-382-8958

Saint Louis Numismatic Assn. #22092
c/o: Mike Orlando, PO Box 1102, St. Louis, Mo. 63074.

Saint Petersburg Coin Club LM - 376
c/o Robert Wiley. 727-580-4108,3603 50 Ave N. St Petersburg, FL 33714. St Petersburg Community Church, 4501 30th Ave. North.
600 PM - 2nd Monday
email: Landjhester@yahoo.com

Sarasota Coin Club LM-795
c/o David Klein, 640 S. Washington Blvd. Suite 100, Sarasota, FL 34236-7130
Waldemere Fire Station Waldemere St.
7PM - 3rd Monday
email: dlcgklein@aol.com

Silver Sands Coin Club #3829
PO Box 543, Lynn Haven, FL 32444
Palo Also Church of Christ, Hwy 231, Panama City, FL Contact: Anthony Bedell.
email: abedell3@comcast.net
7:00 PM - 3rd Tuesday Monthly

Society of Paper Money Collectors #19469
Robert Moon, 104 Chipping Ct., Greenwood, SC 29649

Society of Silver Dollar Collectors #23515
c/o Mike Andrew, 680 Grackle Dr., Casselberry, FL 32707

South Brevard Coin Club #6773
The Peace Lutheran Church, 1801 Port Malabar Blvd. NE, Palm Bay, FL. Contact: Marie Shea, President. PO Box 100712 Palm Bay, FL 32907. PH: 321-914-3510.
7 pm - 1st Wednesday.
email:*Marie.sheapalmbay@gmail.com*

South Carolina Numismatic Association (SCNA) #25816
Po Box 693, Lugoff, SC 29078.
email: *pascalbrock@gmail.com*

Southern Gold Society #17209
c/o David Crenshaw, P O Box 237, Dacula, GA 30019-0004.
Quarterly Meetings

Souvenir Card Collectors Society #12996
c/o Arthur S. Patrick, 2729 Cloudcroft Dr. Apopka, FL 32703, PH: 407-889-0528.
Spatrick3@cfl.rr.com

Sunken Treasure Literature Club #20113
Contact: David Crooks, PO Box 166
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
email: dcrooks@dcrooks.com

(continued on next page)

Member Clubs

Tony Swicer

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Sunken Treasure Literature Club #20113
Contact: David Crooks, PO Box 166
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
email: dcrooks@dcrooks.com

Tallahassee Numismatic Club #25070
Contact: Hemanth Vasanthaiah,President.
850-322-4647.
Meetings: 4th Tuesday. Galleries of Grace Estate Buyers, Governors Square Mall, Tallahassee.
email: hemanth.vasanthaiah@gmail.com

Tampa Bay Coin Club #815
Forest Hills Park, 724 W 109th Ave.
Contact:Joseph Crespo. PO Box 1035, Land O'Lakes, Fl 34639. PH: 813-420-6460
tbcc1955@aol.com
Meetings: Second Tuesday 6:45PM.
www.tampabaycoincub.org

Tennessee State Numismatic Society LM - 802
Bourse: Gayle Pike, 901-327-1703
Box 11705, Memphis, TN 38111
email: pikegk@aol.com; website:www.tsns.org
Annual meeting: March show

The 1715 Fleet Society #24062
Ben Costello, 505 Washington Trust Building, Washington, PA 15301
email: 1715fleetsociety@gmail.com

The Elongated Collectors (TEC) #25252
PO Box 1885 Tehachapi, CA 93581-1885

Treasure Coast Coin Club, Inc #2896
PO Box 6070, Vero Beach, FL 32961-6070
Bldg. Y Room 102, In Fort Pierce at the Indian River State College
7:00 PM - 2nd Wednesday

Venice Coin & Currency Club #23301
PO Box 1083, Venice, FL 32484. Venice City Hall, 401 W. Venice Ave, Venice, FL
7:00PM - 4th Monday
crotona2104@msn.com

Virginia Numismatic Association (VNA) #25332
PO 263 Cape Charles, VA 23310
vnaonlin.org

WWW.CUDS-ON-COINS.COM #25622
c/o Robert Neff, 321 Kingslake Dr. Debary, FL 32713. 386-837-2215
emaill: *ERRORREF@aol.com*

West Hernando Coin Club #21199
9100 Nakoma Way, Weeki Wachee, FL
Bruce Schneider: 352-584-3163
Heather Community Center off Hwy 19
7PM - Second Monday
www.westhernandocoinclub.com

Women in Numismatics #13191
Contact: Cindy Wibker, PO Box 471147, Lake Monroe, FL 32757-1147.
Meet at: FUN, CSNS, ANA

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FUN IN TAMPA 2016

January 7-10, 2016
Tampa
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Heritage Auctions

Coin Show Tactics for Dealers

Doug Davis- Founder/President NCIC Bryan Davis- Crime Analyst

Dealers who participate in coin shows are potential targets of numismatic predators. The following tactics and practices provide dealers and their employees with a basic safety plan that will help reduce the chances of becoming a numismatic crime victim.

1. Take the time to learn about the show you will be attending and the area in which it is located.
2. Contact the bourse chairman to answer any additional questions such as location of loading and unloading areas. (Possible construction areas, road closings close to venue etc.,)
3. If traveling by personal car plan most direct route and determine any construction or choke points (Contact State Police or State Transportation Department for this type of information). Identify any potential weather issues that would cause travel problems. Determine if there are any cell phone dead spots along your route. Always be alert to suspicious vehicles.
4. Travel with someone and let a family member know your route and estimated time of arrival.
5. Inventory coins and leave copy on home/office computer. (Downloading to a flash drive provides an additional layer of documentation)
6. Upon arrival locate unloading area and make sure adequate security is in place while unloading (loading). Before exiting your vehicle look around for any suspicious persons, vehicles or activity.
7. Do not let cell phones distract you (Texting and talking) while loading and unloading.
8. Once you have unloaded do not park in a secluded parking lot or one that does not have ade quate lighting after dark.
9. Always be alert to the surroundings when going to and from your vehicle. Do not use cell phone.
10. If you are arriving by air and taking a cab, shuttle or limousine to the show do not take your eyes off your bags until they are secured within the vehicle. In situations where you are using a shuttle stay at the rear until the last piece of luggage is loaded and then board. (Do not let any distrac tion cause you to take your eyes off of your bags)
11. If possible keep the most valuable bag in your possession.
12. Do not advertise you are a coin dealer and going to the coin show.
13. When you get to the show and exit the vehicle be alert to the surroundings while your bags are being unloaded. (Do not let any distraction cause you take your eyes off of your bags)
14. Once inside the show check-in and immediately put on your show credentials.
15. When you arrive at your table secure inventory behind table before you start arranging cases, lamps and chairs. DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING IN AISLE.
16. Identify who is on each side and behind you.
17. Do not let other dealers or early birds look at coins until set-up is complete. This will eliminate any distractions and maintains control of inventory.
18. Do not display more material than you can control.
19. Once set-up is complete take photos with your phone to document your presence at show. (In surance and Law Enforcement purposes).
20. Take photos of individual cases. (Insurance and Law Enforcement purposes)
21. Use extra cases on backup table to secure additional inventory, money bags and invoices.

(continued on next page))

Coin Show Tactics for Dealers

(continued from previous page)

22. Do not keep cash, invoices, checkbooks or itemized inventory listing in same location.
23. Secure briefcases to backup table with cable locks.
24. If you occupy a corner table make sure back-up inventory cannot be reached by customers.
25. Look around and locate all exits emergency and non-emergency. Familiarize yourself with the entire room.
26. Fire Alarms – Know the protocol of the facility if a fire alarm is tripped and mandatory evacua tion is required (real or false).
27. Develop a mental plan of escape if an emergency arises that requires immediate evacuation of the bourse floor.
28. Keep a small LED flashlight within easy reach in case of power failure within the bourse floor (It does happen!!).
29. If lights go out illuminate flashlight and have customers push back away from the table and re main seated. Close cases immediately.
30. Cases should be locked at all times including those on backup table.
31. Be familiar with security personnel.
32. Know how to contact security during the show if needed.
33. Know how to contact a show representative during the show if needed.
34. Know how to contact a show representative after show closes in case of an accident or med ical emergency.
35. When dealing with customers show only one coin at a time.
36. If you are alone do not show coins to multiple customers at one time. Suspects working in pairs often utilize this method to keep a dealer distracted.
37. Coin thieves will migrate to dealer tables that are extremely busy and easily distracted.
38. Coin thieves look for dealers who are vulnerable.
39. In many cases a person's unusual head and eye movements raise suspicious red flags.
40. Always watch a person's hands carefully.
41. Do not let customers place personal items on show case.
42. When showing raw coins watch hand movements for palming of coins. In many cases a person looking through a box will pull out several coins hold in palm and continue to look through box.
43. Closely watch persons who pull out several coins lay them out on case and continue to look through box. This creates an additional distraction and allows for easy palming.
44. Be aware that suspects may work in pairs. (Males or Male and Female)
45. Remember there is no distinctive profile of what a thief looks like!!
46. When working in pairs the M.O is for one suspect to be looking at coins while the other one asks questions to create a distraction.
47. Do not let customers pull out their coins for comparison unless you are watching carefully. In some cases this could be used as a means of switching coins/paper money.
48. Do not turn your back to customers.
49. Be suspicious of persons asking unsolicited questions about your travel or value of inventory.
50. Never divulge to any person you do not know that you are traveling alone.
51. Utilize your cell phone camera/video to photograph/video and document suspicious persons.
52. Alert security of suspicious persons or activity on the bourse floor.
53. Distractions – Organized groups will often use distraction methods such as a person fainting, fake heart attack or dropping a small child to open a window of opportunity for an accomplice to steal while at your table.

(continued on next page)

Coin Show Tactics for Dealers

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54. Due to the quality of counterfeits carefully evaluate all purchases from the public. (Suspects will try to sell counterfeits to dealers who are extremely busy and will not take the time to care fully examine the coins)
55. If you take a check for purchases - photograph check and identification (require two types of ID) with your cell phone camera. Carefully evaluate photo identification for quality and make sure the photo matches the person making the transaction (Although be aware that good counterfeit ID's will have matching photos). The address on the check and identification should match. Do not take postdated checks. If you are still suspicious ask for other pieces of identifi cation.
56. Immediately place large cash transactions in money bags and lock in showcase. Do not dis play stacks of cash in showcases.
57. If you need to leave your table, lock all cases and alert dealers next to you or in back that you will return shortly.
58. Develop and maintain a personal contingency plan: a. if traveling alone keep a list of any medical conditions, medications and emergency contact numbers inside your wallet or purse b. If you have a medical condition that may be incapacitating such as diabetes or epilepsy make sure someone at the show is aware of a potential problem c. Make sure a family member and fellow dealer in attendance at the show know where you are staying d. Travel with adequate medications e. Identify someone at the show who can secure and take possession of your in ventory in case of accident or medical emergency.
59. When leaving the show at the end of the day do not carry large sums of cash or inventory.
60. Talk with security or show representatives to identify safe and unsafe venues within the area.
61. Take off all show credentials before leaving the building.
62. Do not talk about your business dealings in a public forum (restaurants, bars etc.,).Remember there is no specific profile of what a coin thief looks like.
63. When carrying coins in a briefcase be alert in areas of congestion that may create an opportu nity for theft. Examples: Food lines, ticket lines, crowded subways, shuttles, elevators etc.,
64. At the end of the show limit distractions while packing up. Make sure there is adequate security outside when loading. If making several trips to vehicle, have someone watch your table and leave most valuable load for last.
65. Before driving off check your vehicle for any possible tampering (low tires, leaking fluids etc.,)
66. Be cognizant of any suspicious persons or vehicles.
67. Do not be complacent always be alert to your surroundings – **"Do Not Be a Victim……. "**

Numismatic Crime Information Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to serve as a national and international resource for collectors, dealers and law enforcement in the education, prevention and investigation of crimes involving coins, paper money, tokens, medals and related numismatic items. Visit: WWW.Numismaticcrimes.org and sign up **for free e-mail crime alerts.**

FACEBOOK: https://www.facebook.com/NumismaticCrimeInfo

Show Calendar

Jim Best

2015

May 17
Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show, Volunteer Park Comty Ctr. 12050 W Sunrise Blvd. Plantation, FL ++ Contact: Joe Marshall, PO Box 22102, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102
PH: 954-802-4967.
email: magikj48@yahoo.com

May 24
Palm Beach Coin Show, American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres, FL Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823,Lake Worth, FL 33466

May 29-31
Greater Jacksonville Coin Club, Coin and Collectible Show, Morocco Shrine Temple, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Rd., Jacksonville, FL Contact: Matt Adams, PH: 904-703-3311..
email: gjccpres@bellsouth.net
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June 6-7
Pensacola Numismatic Society Coin Club 40th Annual Coin & Collectibles Show, Pensacola Fairgrounds Bldg. 1, 6655 W. Mobile Hwy, Pensacola, FL. Contact: Danny Hayes, PH: 850-206-3592.
email: hayesjr50@yahoo.com

June 7
Gold Coast Coin, Stamp, & Collectibles Show, Mardi Gras Casino, .841 N. Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach, FL
Contact: Bill Sanders
PH: 305-389-5847
email: www.GoldCoastCoinClub.com

****June 7**
Maitland Coin and Currency Show, Maitland Civic Center, 641 S. Maitland Ave. Maitland, FL. Contact: Jason Lowery PH: 407-739-4817.
website: www.maitlandcoinshow.com

June 13
St. Petersburg Coin Club Show. Disabled American Veterans, 4801 37th Street North, ST. Petersburg, FL 33713. Contact: Robert Wiley PH: 727-580-4108, PO Box 1201 St Petersburg, FL 33784-1201.
email: robert_wly@yahoo.com

June 14
South Brevard & Missle Stamp Club Show, Eau Galle Civic Center, 1551 Highland Ave , Melbourne, FL. Contact: Alysha Wilson PH: 321-751-3647.
email: wilson4808@bellsouth.net

June 20
Brandon Coin Club Coin, Currency, and Stamp Show Brandon Elks Lodge, 800 Centennial Dr Brandon, FL Contact: Mark Palermo PH 813-361-0740
email mpalermo1@tampabay.rr.com

June 21
Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show, Volunteer Park Comty Ctr. 12050 W Sunrise Blvd. Plantation, FL ++ Contact: Joe Marshall, PO Box 22102, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102
PH: 954-802-4967.
email: magikj48@yahoo.com

June 28
Palm Beach Coin Show, American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres, FL Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823,Lake Worth, FL 33466

July 3-5
Clearwater Coin Club, Inc. Coin Show, Innisbrook Golf & Spa Resort••36750 Hwy 19 N. Palm Harbor, FL 34684. Contact: Ed Neito PH: 727-482-4958.
email: bassfishintoday@gmail.com
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July 5
Gold Coast Coin, Stamp, & Collectibles Show, Mardi Gras Casino, .841 N. Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach, FL
Contact: Bill Sanders
PH: 305-389-5847
email: www.GoldCoastCoinClub.com

July 9-11
9th SUMMER FUN Convention.
ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER 9800 International Drive•West Hall A3, Orlando, FL. Contact: Cindy Wibker, PO Box 471147, Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1147. PH: 407-321-8747. Fax: 407-321-5138
e-mail:Cwibker@aol.com AD - page 46

July 11
St. Petersburg Coin Club Show. Disabled American Veterans, 4801 37th Street North, ST. Petersburg, FL 33713. Contact: Robert Wiley PH: 727-580-4108, PO Box 1201 St Petersburg, FL 33784-1201.
email: robert_wly@yahoo.com

July16-19
Whitman's Baltimore Coin and Currency Convention. Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt St. Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD. PH: 404-214-4373.
www.whitmanexpo.com AD - page 45

July 19
Fort Lauderdale Coin Club Coin & Stamp Show, Volunteer Park Comty Ctr. 12050 W Sunrise Blvd. Plantation, FL ++ Contact: Joe Marshall, PO Box 22102, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-2102
PH: 954-802-4967.
email: magikj48@yahoo.com

July 23-25
Missouri Numismatic Society 55th Annual Coin Show. St. Charles Convention Center, 1 Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, Mo 63303. Contact: Sid Nusbaum. PH: 636-583-2090.
email: sid1904pike@yahoo.com
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July 26
Palm Beach Coin Show, American Polish Club, 4725 Lake Worth Road, Greenacres, FL Contact: Tony Swicer, PO Box 5823,Lake Worth, FL 33466

August 2
Gold Coast Coin, Stamp, & Collectibles Show, Mardi Gras Casino, .841 N. Federal Hwy, Hallandale Beach, FL
Contact: Bill Sanders
PH: 305-389-5847
email: www.GoldCoastCoinClub.com

August 29
Brandon Coin Club Coin, Currency, and Stamp Show. Brandon Elks Lodge, 800 Centennial Dr. Brandon, FL. Contact: Mark Palermo. PH: 813-361-0740.
email: mpalermo1@tampabay.rr.com

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SUMMER FUN EXHIBITORS

For anyone who intends to, or is just thinking about exhibiting at the Summer FUN show, now is the time to start planning.

The formal exhibiting is over for 2015 and now is the perfect time to get in some practice for the next FUN show in January of 2016. All the collectors I know like to show off what they have collected. FUN has the perfect venue for you to do just that. If you have numismatic-related material and it has an educational value, your presence and your collection is requested at Summer FUN.

FUN will provide a dedicated exhibit area, security, and display cases. As an exhibitor you simply bring your material and set up an exhibit. For a single subject exhibit you can have up to seven cases. If you have more than one subject you can have more than one exhibit.

Summer FUN exhibiting is informal and non-competitive. There is no requirement to get all the details perfect. It is a time to gain experience and give your exhibit a "tune up" in preparation for the FUN Show in January of 2015 here in Orlando, FL.

The classes for exhibits in January are:
1. U.S. Coins
2. Paper Money
3. Foreign Coins
4. Errors (all numismatic errors)
5. Medals, Orders, Decorations, Tokens
6. Miscellaneous
7. Young Numismatists (YN)
8. Clubs (material relating to the club)

A. Junior YN (9-16 years of age)
B. Senior YN (17-21 years of age)

Please go to the FUN website: http://www.funtopics.com, and on the drop down menu under Summer FUN click "educational exhibits and seminars," read the rules, fill out the application and send it to me. The same application form will work for both the Summer FUN in July and the FUN show in January. I'll see you and your exhibit at Summer FUN in July 2015. The appllication can be found on the FUN website:

www.funtopics.com

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you will find hotel information
for our Sumer Show
www.funtopics.com
reservations-7 days a week

1-407-833-8938
Weekdays 8:30AM-5:30PM EST
FAX: 1-407-264-8801
reservations@funshowhotels.com

NON-COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

Contact: Bob Russell
carousel@cfl.rr.com

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FUTURE SUMMER SHOWS: 10th annual Summer FUN - July 7-9, 2016 ••
11th Annual Summer FUN - July 6-8, 2017

FUN IN TAMPA 2016

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61st Annual FUN Show

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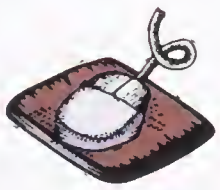

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EMAIL:
reservations@funshowhotels.com

More info:
WWW.FUNTOPICS.COM

Future Shows:
January 5-8, 2017 Ft. Lauerdale, Fl.
January 4-7, 2018 Tampa, Fl.

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

Robert Russell
2938 Chantilly Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789-1107
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Email: carousel@cfl.rr.com

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Consignments now being accepted!

BOURSE INFORMATION

Cindy Wibker, Chairperson
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Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1147
PH: 407-321-8747
FAX: 407-321-5138
e-mail:CWibker@aol.com

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FUN-Topics ··· Advertising Schedule

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·· Published Quarterly plus two convention programs ··
· Editorial Features · Show coverage · Promotions · Advertising

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ADVERTISING RATES

PAGE SIZE	1 TIME	4 OR MORE ISSUES	Program Only
Full Page	$375.00	$320.00	$415.00
2/3 Page	$250.00	$215.00	$275.00
1/2 Page	$200.00	$170.00	$220.00
1/3 Page	$130.00	$112.00	$145.00
1/4 Page	$120 00	$102.00	$135.00
1/6 Page	$77 00	$65.00	$85.00
1/12 Page	$45 00	$39 00	$48.00

Editorial Deadlines

SummerFUN 2015	June 5
Fall 2015	July 24
Winter 2015	October 2
Program 2016	November 27
Spring 2016	January 22

Position pages: $35.00 extra
Full Color: $75.00 extra

Advertising Deadlines

SummerFUN 2015	June 5
Fall 2015	July 31
Winter 2015	October 9
Program 2016	November 27
Spring 2016	January 22

FAX: 863-701-7370
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Further information can be found at

www.funtopics.com

FLORIDA UNITED NUMISMATISTS
TAMPA, FLORIDA – JANUARY 7-10, 2016

(Application Postmark Deadline: December 1, 2015)

EXHIBIT APPLICATION

Exhibitor Name:_____FUN #_____
Address_____City_____State/Zip_____
Email_____Phone_____
Emergency Contact: Name_____City_____State/Zip_____

EXHIBIT CLASSIFICATIONS

_____U.S. Coins _____Medals, Orders, Decorations, Tokens
_____Paper Money _____Miscellaneous
_____Foreign Coins _____Junior YN(9-16) _____Senior YN(17-21)
_____Errors (All numismatic errors) _____Clubs (Any material relating to exhibiting club)
Competitive_____ Non-Competitive_____

Previous exhibit awards at FUN conventions_____
My intended convention address, if known_____
_____

Exhibit Title_____
Exhibit description: A brief note describing the theme/numismatic purpose of your exhibit. Use back of application if needed.
_____
_____

Number of Cases Needed #_____; or I shall provide #_____ cases of my own.

Release From Liability

I have read the "Rules for Exhibitors" and agree to abide by them. I guarantee all of the numismatic material in my exhibit is my own property. I hereby release Florida United Numismatists and its directors, members, agents, and servants in their official and personal capacities from any liability for loss, damage or destruction of my exhibited materials. The foregoing release shall not limit the liability of any individual who may be personally guilty of theft, willful damage or destruction of my numismatic material.

Signature_____**Date**_____

Parent's Signature if under 18_____**Date**_____

Photocopies or email are acceptable. All applications will be confirmed by the Exhibit Chairman. Please keep a copy of your appication for your files and send the original to:

Robert "Bob" Russell
PO Box 941616
Maitland, FL
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Phone: 407-721-1351
Email: FUNEXHIBITS@GMIAIL.COM

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